Gay Sisters and Brothers,

I am writing this letter, hoping that we can all profit from it. I am a former employee/resident of Gay House. Please keep in mind, I am trying to create, not destroy.

Gay House opened in Mid-March of this year with a $2000 seed grant from JUMP, a church group. This money was given without any religious implications, although the fact that it came from a church group scared away many gay people.

I moved into Gay House during the second week of its life. The arrangement was simple--I needed a place to live and Gay House needed people. I was quite excited with the concept of Gay House, and worked quite enthusiastically on it.

Gay House's early orientation was toward counselling, with a grudging attempt at a drop-in center and a lot of outside the House social activities.

As Gay House developed, I found myself less able to do anthing with it. Examples: I spent a lot of time making a gravel pathway around the House, only to look out the window and find it being raked over for a lawn. I'll have my path in the end, after enough people have walked across the lawn to go around the house. I also wanted to do counseling of transvestites and transexuals, since I have experience in this area, but upon expressing this desire, I was told that this was being given to someone who I have never seen or heard of. A few weeks later, after considerable battling, I managed to organize a musical Jam on Saturday nights. Despite the fact that it was well-attended and successful, I was unable to make this a weekly event, due to Gay House's prejudice against activities in the house.

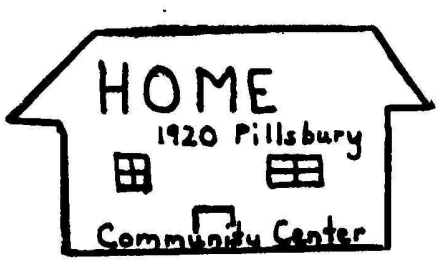
The thing that bothered me most though, was when people began maneuvering behind my back. I am a transvestite, and as such, I have felt 10 times the oppression from Gay people then I have from straights. I soon had a clique of about a dozen people telling stories behind my back, things like how I was shooting heroin(I never have and never will use speed, barbs, or heroin.). How I was actually straight and making it with girls, etc. There is no way you can fight a batch of bitch queens, so at a rather stormy meeting I walked out and left the House.

Since then, Gay House has continued in its path of alienation. I am still excited with the idea of a Gay help for Gay People, but I can't see where Gay House is anywhere near it.

I remember writing the original article in Hundred Flowers announcing the opening of Gay House. I said the house was open to all Gay People, Transvestites, and Transexuals. From my experience, Gay House is presently a fucked-up white, liberal college playground. Queens, racial minorites, street people, and older gays can expect to be turned off. Any young white males can expect a 50/50 chance of being raped upon entering the front door, depending on how good looking you are and/or how horny the staff is.

As I see it (and this is my opinion--I hope you can find your own) Gay House must have participation from the <u>entire</u> gay community. So far, Gay House has sat upon its ideological pedestal, expecting the Gay community to come to it. This policy has managed to alienate much of the gay community. Gay House will be successful only when <u>all</u> Gay People can relate with the House on an equal basis. There are many ways this can be done. I do not care to opinionate, I only hope I have stimulated a few minds to action. Gay House is your house, do something with it.

Peace, Love, and Joy
Diana Slyter



Slyter, Diana. "Gay Sisters and Brothers." Gay-Vue, vol. 1, no. 5, 2 Oct. 1971, p. 2. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, link.gale.com/apps/doc/RQJRTK103461877/AHSI?u=nypl&sid=bookmark-AHSI. Accessed 1 Nov. 2024.